



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**MAY 19, 2005**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

VIPER UPDATE:

**U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES CHARGES IN FIRST VIPER CASE**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and illegally possessing a firearm. Today's indictment, Graves said, is the first case since the launch of VIPER, a new joint initiative with the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department to combat violent crime in Kansas City, Mo.

**Elijah I. Jones**, 23, of Kansas City, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** possessed with intent to distribute crack cocaine on May 6, 2005, in Jackson County, Mo.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** possessed a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. The indictment alleges that **Jones** possessed a Norinco MAK-90 semi-automatic rifle on May 6, 2003, in Jackson County.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose, Jr. It was investigated by the Kansas City Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

VIPER – Violent Incident Proactive Enterprise Response – is a program designed to proactively combat violent crime in Kansas City by targeting gang members, drug traffickers and other violent criminals. The VIPER initiative was launched in April.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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